

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ADDRESSES UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL, GENERAL FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES, ADDRESSED THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 17. HE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY A FULL HOUSE OF DELEGATES. COSTA GOMES SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS AND DELIVERED A FAIRLY BRIEF STATEMENT.

2. HE MENTIONED "THE HUMILITATION OF HALF A CENTURY OF DICTORSHIP" SUFFERED BY PORTUGAL AND REAFFIRMED THE DETERMINATION TO SAFEGUARD THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION, I.E., RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL AND INITIATION OF "THE IRREVERSIBLE AND DEFINITIVE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION" IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. HE AFFIRMED PORTUGAL WILL FULFILL ALL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS -- POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.

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3. IN CARRYING OUT THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION, COSTA GOMES SAID AN ATMOSPHERE OF POLITICAL TOLERANCE BASED ON A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM WOULD BE CREATED. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, "ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES WITH ALL THE TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND WITH ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD" WILL BE INTENSIFIED. HE THEN MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE COUNTRIES EMERGING FROM THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION "WITHOUT FORGETTING THE ARAB STATES AND OTHERS" WITH WHOM PORTUGAL HAS HISTORICAL TIES. COSTA GOMES THEN ALSO MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RELATIONS WITH ALL LATIN COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND AMERICA.

4. HE CALLED FOR A QUICK WITHDRAWAL OF ALL UN EMBARGOES AND RESTRICTIONS AGAINST PORTUGAL. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING PORTUGAL WILL BE OVERCOME, HE ASSERTED, IF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD GIVE THEIR MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT.

5. TOUCHING VERY BRIEFLY ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, COSTA GOMES CALLED ON THE BIG POWERS TO ENGAGE MORE DYNAMICALLY IN THE PROCESS OF DISARMAMENT. LESS FAVORED COUNTRIES COULD THEN BENEFIT FROM THE RESOURCES CONSERVED AS A RESULT, HE SAID. HE DECLARED THAT PORTUGAL IS READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO INITIATIVES AIMED AT ELIMINATING HUNGER, AT A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, AND AT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

7. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - COMMENT: IN HIS SPEECH, COSTA GOMES MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE LATIN PEOPLES AND LAID HEAVY STRESS ON THE THIRD WORLD, WITH EMPHASIS ON AFRICA AND THE ARAB PEOPLES. ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED INTENSIFYING RELATIONS WITH "ALL THE TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES," THIS WAS HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO US OR NON-LATIN EUROPE. NOR DID HE MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HIS EAGER EFFORTS TO WOO THE THIRD WORLD WERE NO DOUBT CALCULATED AND HIS FAILURE TO MENTION THE US OTHER THAN INDIRECTLY AS ABOVE WAS CONSPICUOUS. ENGLISH TRANSLATION HANDED OUT DURING HIS ADDRESS WAS ATROCIOUS AND HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN PREPARED BY A HUNT AND PECK USE OF DICTIONARY. END COMMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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